

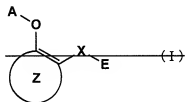
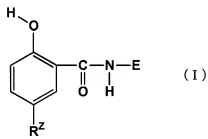
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~preventive and/or therapeutic treatment~~ preventing the development of dermal pigmentation and/or skin cancer caused by transformation and/or proliferation of melanocytes in a mammal including a human, which comprises ~~the step of~~ administering to the mammal a preventively ~~and/or therapeutically~~ effective amount of an inhibitor of transformation and/or proliferation of melanocytes, wherein said inhibitor is a compound represented by the following general formula (I) or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein X represents a group represented by the following formula:



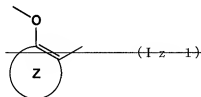
wherein a bond at the left end binds to ring Z and a bond at the right end binds to E,

A represents hydrogen atom,

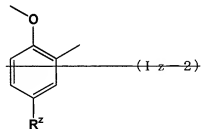
wherein E represents a 2,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group or a 3,5-

bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, and

the following partial formula (Iz-1) in the general formula (I) containing ring Z



represents the following formula (Iz-2):



wherein R^Z represents a halogen atom, to a mammal including a human.

18.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein E is a 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, and R^Z is a halogen atom.

22.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, for preventive and/or

~~therapeutic treatment preventing the development~~ of dermal pigmentation.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, for ~~preventive and/or therapeutic treatment preventing the development~~ of dermal pigmentation.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting transformation and/or proliferation of melanocytes caused by ultraviolet irradiation, which comprises the step of allowing a compound represented by the general formula (I) or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 17 to act on melanocytes.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (I) or the pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof is the same as that defined in claim 21.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of skin whitening, which comprises ~~the step of administering an effective amount of~~ allowing a compound represented by the general formula (I) or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 17 to ~~a human~~ act on melanocytes in the skin.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (I) or the pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof is the same as that defined in claim 21.

30. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the mammal is a human.

31.-33. (Canceled)

34. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein said skin cancer is melanoma.

35. (New) The method according to claim 17, for preventing the development of dermal pigmentation.

36. (New) A method for preventing of skin dullness, skin darkening by sunburn, spots, or freckles caused by dermal pigmentation, which comprises allowing a compound represented by the general formula (I) or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 17 to act on melanocytes in the skin.